more weighty business. Nevertheless, it is inevitable that if its work be well done it will eventually become the foremost factor in determining the standard and the standing of American scholarship and American degrees before the nations of the world, and consequently before our own people here at home.

The investigation of a network of problems of labor, the costs of production, customs duties, commercial relations, and the regulation of corporations, will be one of the earliest undertakings which a national university may be expected to place upon a scientific basis. Its studies in this field will of necessity extend over decades and even generations. But within a few years there should be assembled and made available for use a greater body of digested information on these subjects than any Congress or administration in this country or any parliament or ministry abroad has ever had, on which to base its industrial legislation.

To amass information, however, is not of itself scientific. What is to be chiefly hoped is that from such researches, in which closely related sciences shall be cultivated together and all upon the largest scale, there shall emerge new and enlightening theories, embodied in new and well-grounded principles of social development.

Finally, if I have spoken thus far of the sciences only, it is not meant to the exclusion of the arts. Quite the contrary. In a more profound sense than is commonly believed, the arts are bound up with the sciences in the making of our civilization. Music, sculpture, and painting are, generally speaking, mere hangers-on in our scheme of higher education to-day. This is one of the defects in our university life which the nineteenth century has handed on to the twentieth. It is one of the defects which a national university should help us to correct. If we are to have anything like national standards in our drama, in our fiction and our verse, in the aggregate architecture of our cities, in the fine arts generally—still more, if we are to make a disciplined sense of beauty sustain, correct, and supplement the scientific trend of our life—our national university must help us in this great work. At best, it is a slow work and a mighty. We shall do well if another century shall find us far advanced upon it.

What has been offered here is only the barest outline of a great hope and dream for our national life. It will seem far removed from those briefly jotted experiences with which this article began. It is a hope and dream which those experiences, however petty by comparison, did not in any measure dampen or abate. Indeed, while I had at Washington a keen sense of the disproportion between the work in which I was engaged and the work of that kind which this country imperatively needs, I went on in that work with a growing conviction that no greater or lesser perfomance of my own or of any other commissioner, no favoring or adverse attitude of successive secretaries, congresses, or presidents, can in the long run prevent this country from erecting its great national institution of education, science, and the arts, at least coordinate with the traditional branches of government, in which all systems and institutions of science, art, and education throughout the land shall be participants, and shall find therein a new realization of their best ideals.

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New York University

Local Branches of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

At the Atlanta meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science authorizes the establishment of local branches of the association in places where the members are prepared to conduct branches which will forward the objects of the association.

Resolved, That the standing committee on organization and membership be instructed to promote the establishment of such local branches.

The plan of regional division and local branches has been under consideration for some time. Last year a Pacific Coast division was established and an associate secretary for the south was appointed. At the Atlanta meeting a Brazilian division was authorized. There is every reason to believe that a forward step in the advancement and diffusion of science can be taken by the establishment of local branches, especially in places where there are no chapters of the Society of the Sigma Xi, academies of science, or similar organizations. Even where such agencies already exist, a union of the members of the American Association might cooperate with them for their common interests. A local branch can arrange for lectures, scientific programs, dinners and social meetings, which will bring together those interested in the progress of science, will encourage them in their work and improve the conditions under which it is done, and will increase the interest of the community in science. If a number of local branches are formed in a state or a region it will be possible to arrange for joint meetings or for a lecturer to address meetings in the different places.

The great increase in the number of scientific men, their scattering in this country over a vast area and the differentiation of their work have made it difficult or impossible for them to come together at national meetings and discuss their common objects. The advance and necessary specialization of science tend to divorce it from the interests of the people on whom in a democracy it must depend for recruits and for support. Local societies or clubs, especially in smaller centers where there are not enough scientific men to form groups of specialists and where lectures and scientific programs are not common, can accomplish a great deal to maintain interest in research and to impress its importance on the general public. They will be aided by the prestige of the history and the national scope of the American Association with its eight thousand members and will in turn strengthen the work and influence of the association.

The standing committee of the association on organization and membership, of which Dr. W. H. Welch, of the Johns Hopkins University is chairman, the permanent secretary, Dr. L. O. Howard, is a member, and Professor J. McK. Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y., is secretary, has been authorized to promote the formation of such local branches and the secretary of the committee will be glad to correspond with members of the association who may be interested in the formation of local branches which will promote the objects of the association in their neighborhoods.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Senate has confirmed the nomination of Col. William C. Gorgas as surgeon-general of the United States Army.

DR. WALTER P. BRADLEY has resigned as professor of chemistry after twenty-five years of service at Wesleyan University to take charge of the investigations of the United States Rubber Company in whose employ he recently spent a year's leave of absence.

DR. EDWIN G. CONKLIN, profesor of biology in Princeton University, has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Bohemian Academy of Sciences.

DR. SAMUEL AMBERG, of The Otho S. A. Sprague Memorial Institute Laboratory, of Chicago, has been elected a corresponding member of the Society of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics in Vienna.

DR. ADOLF FRANK, known for his important contributions to agricultural chemistry, celebrated at Charlottenburg, on January 20, his eightieth birthday.

PROFESSOR W. M. DAVIS, of Harvard University, plans to carry out an exploration of some of the coral islands in the Pacific. He is so arranging his tour as to be able to attend the